



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/821,978	04/12/2004	Michael Krause	203-031	3124

52203 7590 09/14/2006

CONTINENTAL TEVES, INC.  
ONE CONTINENTAL DRIVE  
AUBURN HILLS, MI 48326-1581

EXAMINER
----------

ILAN, RUTH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3616

DATE MAILED: 09/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary  
for Applications  
Under Accelerated Examination**

Application No.

10/821,978

Applicant(s)

KRAUSE ET AL.

Examiner

Ruth Ilan

Art Unit

3616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Since this application has been granted special status under the accelerated examination program,  
NO extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be permitted and a **SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR  
REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE:**

**ONE MONTH OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER,**  
FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION -- if this is a non-final action or a *Quayle* action.  
(Examiner: For **FINAL** actions, please use PTOL-326.)

The objective of the accelerated examination program is to complete the examination of an application within twelve months from the filing date of the application. Any reply must be filed electronically via EFS-Web so that the papers will be expeditiously processed and considered. If the reply is not filed electronically via EFS-Web, the final disposition of the application may occur later than twelve months from the filing of the application.

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 3) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.  
3a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 4) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1,6,7,11 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-5 and 8-10 is/are objected to.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 8) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 9) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 April 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 10) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 11) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/17/04 and 4/12/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Priority***

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

### ***Drawings***

2. The drawings are objected to because the lines in Figure 4 are very unclear. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

Art Unit: 3616

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 6, 7, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Regarding claim 6 the limitation "a mid-class European motor vehicle" renders the scope of the claim unclear. There is not a particular standard to which the vehicle is being compared that would apprise someone of the dimensions of the vehicle. Regarding claim 7, lines 1 and 2 recite "said slope inclination limit value" and "said slant position limit value". There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claims. The examiner notes that these terms were introduced in claim 4, however claim 7 depends from claim 1, not claim 4. Claim 11 introduces "sensors" and it is not clear if these are intended to be additional sensors or the ones previously introduced in claim 1.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamagiwa et al. (US 4,965,878.) Yamagiwa et al. teaches a method for operating a level control system including a control apparatus (ECU, see Figure 1) and a plurality of sensors the determine the distances of the vehicle chassis to the axles ((FL, FR, RL, RR, see col. 3, lines 10-49.) Leveling is performed in the claimed manner (see for

Art Unit: 3616

instance s35, for limit value check, see Figure 10.) The automatic leveling is prevented when the motor vehicle is disposed in a slope and slant position (see col. 3, lines 50-64, when one wheel is up on the curve the vehicle can fairly be said to in a slope and slant position.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamagiwa et al.(US 4,965,878) in view of Shono et al. (US 6,240,348 B1.) Yamagiwa et al. is discussed above, and fails to teach that the signals from the height sensors are filtered. Shono et al. teaches that it is known to include low pass filtering of the signals from height sensors (see col. 7, line 65-col. 8, line 3.) The filtering reduces the noise of instantaneous changes. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include signal filtering of the sensor signals of Yamagiwa et al., in view of the teaching of Shono et al., in order to reduce the noise in the system, and filter out the noise in the system caused by instantaneous, high frequency changes.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

9. Claims 2-5, 8-10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

10. Claims 6 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

### ***Conclusion***

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kawagoe and Takizawa et al. both teach suspension systems of interest.

12.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ruth Ilan whose telephone number is 571-272-6673.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00.

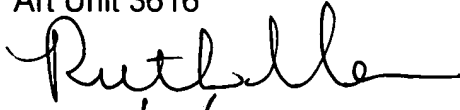
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Dickson can be reached on 571-272-6669. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3616

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

RI  
9/8/06

Ruth Ilan  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3616

  
9/8/06